

The Planters' Chronicle.

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THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

Contents.

The Scientific Department publishes a very interesting article on the mixing of fertilisers, with a practical demonstration by Mr. Birnie, which led to a valuable discussion at the Meeting. It is impossible to over-estimate the value of such personal instruction by experts.

The Proceedings of the West Coast Planters' Association, the South Mysore Planters' Association and the Anamalai Planters' Association are published. They are all of general interest on the question of the proposed Labour Commission. All three Associations have strongly supported the action of the United Planters' Association Meeting.

We congratulate the West Coast Planters' Association on their Resolution (153) resolving to increase their subscription to the U. P. A. S. I. to the 2 anna basis. This brings all the affiliated Associations into line as equal subscribers at 2 annas, which we hope will be noted by the Honorary Secretary of the Anamalai Planters' Association.

We must, before leaving this subject, heartily congratulate Mr. Abbott, the late Chairman, on having his continued efforts towards this culmination accomplished. Coming so soon after a wonderfully unanimous Annual Meeting, over which he presided with much success, we consider this the coping stone of his Chairmanship.

We note with satisfaction that the Anamalai Planters' Association endorsed what their Delegates said at the Annual Meeting as regards the retention of the Scientific Officer for a further period of five years. All the remarks on this subject were laudatory and appreciative, but the Editor is of opinion that the U. P. A. must move and soon if they wish to retain those services which they recognise as becoming more and more valuable, or it will have to start *ab ova usque mala*.

Several interesting letters are published on the subject of the Labour Question, but it would be invidious, where all are so good, to pick out any for special mention; but we trust that Mr. Mead will reply to some of the letters which his own has brought forth.

THE SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENT, U.P.A.S.I.

THE MIXING OF FERTILISERS ON ESTATES, DISCUSSED AT A MEETING AT POLLIBETTA.

The Scientific Officer has just completed a rapid tour of inspection of the Kallisyndicate Experiment Plots in Coorg. He was accompanied on this tour by Mr. R. Birnie, the Agricultural Officer of the Syndicate, and while at Pollibetta, the opportunity was taken to hold a meeting of an informal nature to discuss with planters the possibility of making fertiliser mixtures on the estates instead of buying such mixtures ready made. When opening the discussion on this subject, Mr. Anstead said:—

During a discussion which took place at the recent Annual Meeting of the U. P. A. S. I. on the subject of fertiliser guarantees it was suggested by Mr. Birnie, the Agricultural Officer in India to the Potash Syndicate, that it would be a good plan if planters were to buy the ingredients of any desired mixture separately on guarantee and mix them in the desired proportions on their estates. They would then be certain of getting any desired mixture as free as possible from impurities.

In addition to this the solubility and accompanying availability to the plant of the different plant food in the mixture can be regulated. A mixture may be guaranteed to contain a certain percentage of phosphoric acid and potash; but these may exist in the mixture in insoluble and slowly available forms. For instance a ground natural phosphatic or potassic rock may give the stated analysis and yet the plant food in it may be unavailable, and therefore the purchaser does not really obtain what he expects.

The only objection that I can see to this procedure is purely one of cost and trouble. As regards the cost it is a simple matter to calculate for any given mixture whether it is worth while to make it on the estate from a monetary point of view.

Take for example a mixture, a sample of which was recently sent me for analysis, guaranteed to contain Nitrogen 6%, Phosphoric Acid 7% and Potash 12%. This cost Rs.156.8 delivered on the estate. The actual value of the plant food in the mixture can be calculated as follows. Suppose that the Nitrogen is all derived from Ground Nut Poonac, its cheapest form, it would cost 8 annas 5 pies per pound. If the Phosphoric Acid is derived from Basic Slag it will cost 2 annas 4 pies per pound and if the Potash is derived from Sulphate of Potash it will cost 2 annas 10 pies per pound. These values are calculated from the catalogue prices of these ingredients and their guaranteed contents.

Now one ton of our mixture contains if up to guarantee—

| | Rs. | A. | P. |
|---|-------|-----|-------|
| 134½ lbs. of Nitrogen @ 8 annas 5 pies per pound | ... | 70 | 11 0 |
| 156½ lbs. of Phosphoric Acid @ 2 annas 4 pies per lb. | ... | 22 | 13 10 |
| 265½ lbs. of Potash @ 2 annas 10 pies per lb. | ... | 47 | 9 7 |
| i. e. the plant food in 1 ton costs | Rs... | 141 | 2 5 |

Hence transport and mixing charges, &c., cost Rs.15.5.7. The cost of transport in this particular case was probably about Rs.10 per ton leaving Rs. 5.5.7 for mixing and it would probably have paid to buy the ingredients separately and mixed them on the estate.

The difficulties of actually doing the mixing are not great and Mr. Birnie will be good enough to give us a demonstration as to how it should be done and you yourselves can then estimate what the cost is likely to be per ton.

Mr. Birnie then gave a practical demonstration by making a mixture of the following fertilisers:—

- $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. Muriate Potash.
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. Basic Slag.
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. Nitrolim.
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. Steamed Bone Meal.

He explained that this mixture was chosen not because it was a particularly good one for Coffee but because it might be considered a typical general fertiliser containing a balanced proportion of plant food and it contained two ingredients, Nitrolim and Steamed Bone which were a little troublesome to mix owing to their dusty nature. Mr. Birnie then showed how in making mixtures of this kind the bulkiest manure should be spread out on the floor first in an even layer and then the next bulkiest and so on one at a time spread in layer after layer on the top. When all had been put out in this way a spade was taken and the edges of the heap first thrown up on to the top of the heap. This having been done beginning at one side, the whole heap is turned over on a conical heap formed close by, care being taken to lift each spadeful from the bottom of the heap and turn it over during the process. The process is repeated three times at the end of which it was very apparent that the mixture was complete. It was explained during the course of the demonstration that some manures must not be mixed together at all under any circumstances, such, for instance, as lime or Basic Slag with Sulphate of Ammonia or manures containing Nitrogen. Others again may only be mixed just before they are applied as they have a tendency to cake and become hard, such for instance are Superphosphate and Sulphate of Potash. It was decided by the meeting that the method of mixing demonstrated would cost at the most ten annas per ton.

At the end of this interesting demonstration a long discussion took place dealing with such subjects as the use of manures, cultivation, green bug, leguminous green dressing, and leaf disease, and at 6.30 p. m. a most successful meeting came to a close with a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Birnie and Mr. Anstead to which those officers briefly replied in suitable terms.

The Scientific Officer.—Mr. Anstead left Bangalore on 15th October to make a tour of the Rubber and Tea District on the West Coast belonging to the West Coast Planters' Association, Mundakayam Planters' Association, Peermade Planters' Association, and South Travancore Planters' Association. He expects to reach Mundakayam about the 1st of November, Peermade about 10th and Quilon about 20th November and to be back at headquarters early in December, after which he will attend the meeting of the Board of Agriculture to be held at Coimbatore beginning on 8th December. Letters should be addressed to Mr. Anstead at Bangalore as usual and they will be forwarded to him at convenient centres while he is on tour, but some delay in replies must be expected under the circumstances. Members of the District Associations mentioned above who wish to see Mr. Anstead during his tour should communicate with their local Honorary Secretaries as soon as possible.

R. D. A.

DISTRICT PLANTERS' ASSOCIATIONS.**West Coast Planters' Association**

Proceedings of a General Meeting held at Malabar Club, Calicut, on 3rd October, 1913.

PRESENT.—Cochin Rubber Co. per Mr. R. de Roos Norman; Eddivanna Rubber and Tea Co. per Mr. A. P. Kiriöch; Kerala Rubber Co. per Mr. Campbell Hunt; Malayalam and Rubber Produce Co. per Mr. A. C. Morrell; Mooply Valley Rubber Co. per Mr. A. H. Mead; Pudukad Rubber Co. per Mr. H. C. Plowden; Thodupusha Rubber Co. per Mr. C. F. Ewart; Central Malabar Syndicate per proxy; Periyar Rubber Co. per proxy; Pullangode Rubber Estate per Mr. H. Waddington (Honorary Secretary). Messrs. C. E. M. Browne, J. Dell, J. Harding Pascoe. *By Proxy*:—Messrs. E. F. Barber, W. L. Crawford, C. Lake, and L. F. Scholfield. *Visitors*:—Messrs. H. Browne, R. H. Crowther and A. H. Robb of the Malabar Branch Association and Messrs. J. G. Ferguson and Templeton Wright. *Chairman*:—Mr. Campbell Hunt.

The Proceedings of the last Meeting were confirmed.

135. *Rules.*—The following alterations were carried unanimously—Words "Not already having a vote as representative for an estate subscription" were inserted between words "Person" and "Dul;" in Rule II. Words "If planters within the jurisdiction of the West Coast Planters' Association" were inserted between words "Must" and "Be" in Rule XVIII.

137. *New Members.*—Election of Messrs. C. E. M. Browne and E. H. Cooper and joining of Mr. E. H. Halliley as representing Mooply and Patingal Estates of the Mooply Valley Rubber Company, were recorded.

138. *New Branches—Malabar Branch.*—This under the title of the "Malabar Planters' Association" was accepted as an affiliated Association and recognised Branch.

Read letter from Mr. Morrell advising that members in Travancore hope to start a Branch in the immediate future. Recorded with satisfaction and Mr. Morrell was asked to convey assurance of a hearty welcome to his neighbours.

139. *Rubber Theft Act.*—The Honorary Secretary reported that with the assistance of Mr. Martin, he secured a copy of the Act brought into force in Travancore on 12th June, 1912, being Regulation IX of 1087. Section 16 of this reads as follows:—

"Any person who is found in possession or charge of any rubber or wet rubber which is suspected to have been stolen, may be charged with being in possession of rubber which is reasonably suspected of having been stolen, and if such person does not give an account to the satisfaction of the Magistrate as to how he came by such rubber or wet rubber, and the Magistrate is satisfied that, having regard to all the circumstances of the case, there are reasonable grounds for suspecting such rubber or wet rubber to have been stolen, such person may be convicted of an offence under this regulation."

Read letter from Honorary Secretary to the Dewan of Cochin and his reply advising that, "It is under contemplation of the Durbar to pass a Regu-

lation as regards Rubber Dealers in the Cochin State, similar to Travancore Regulation dated 12-6-1912."

Resolved that the Cochin Branch be asked to press the matter of the passing of such a regulation in Cochin and that the Honorary Secretary's request to the Hon'ble Mr. F. F. Barber not to press the point with the Government of Madras until this Association advises him further to be confirmed.

140. *Contracts between Magistrate and Coolies Act XIII of '59.*—The Honorary Secretary reported that the District Magistrate of Malabar has ruled that maistries can lay complaints and obtain warrants in cases where they are the employer and have entered into contracts with labourers. —Recorded.

Attention of members was called to the necessity, in cases where they sent an assistant to take out processes under Act XIII of '59, of giving a written authority to act, to such assistants.

142. *Claim made by Mr. C. L. Ittiachen.*—Recorded that the Cochin Branch are settling this matter.

143. *Finance.*—Accounts for year closed to 15th September, with Balance Sheet to same date, showing an available balance of Rs.942-4-0 and a Provisional Budget for remaining three months of 1913 showing an estimated expenditure of Rs.575-5-0 were laid on the table. —Recorded.

144. *Customs Duty.*—Read letter dated 5th August, from the Central Travancore, asking support to resolution that Excise Commissioner be requested to accept Coast Agent's certificates as a guarantee against import of dutiable goods and evading of correct dues.

In the opinion of this meeting it would be impossible for Government to grant the concession asked for.

145. *United Planters' Association of Southern India—Report of Delegates.*—Resolved as this has already been circulated to all members it was not considered necessary to have the same printed, but the Honorary Secretary was asked to file a copy with proceedings of this Meeting.

A very cordial vote of thanks was passed to Messrs. Campbell Hunt and H. Waddington for their work at Bangalore.

147. *Proposed Labour Commission.*—Proposed by Mr. H. C. Plowden and seconded by Mr. C. F. Ewart, that a similar resolution to that passed by the Wynaad and Nilgiri Associations be passed. 6 members voted for and two against. Not being unanimous the following was carried:—That this Meeting considers the institution of a Labour Commission for Southern India an urgent necessity and that the members present agree to represent the position to their proprietors, recommending them to allow the Estates in their charge to join the scheme if it is found that the promises of support justify the establishment of a Commission on the lines suggested in the report of the Committee appointed by the U. P. A. S. I.

Thirteen members voting for and two against. On a poll being called for, it was found 59 votes were for and 47 against.—Carried.

148. *European Defence Association.*—Read U. P. A. S. I. Resolution and circular 13/13. Honorary Secretary informed the meeting that 18

members of this Association and its branches had joined so far. 10 gentlemen present at the Meeting intimated their wish to become members and the Honorary Secretary was instructed to send in their names.

149. *London School of Tropical Medicine.*—Proposed by Mr. Mead and carried that this Association endorses the resolution passed by the U. P. A. S. I., and the Honorary Secretary was instructed to forward a cheque for £10 to Messrs. Harrisons and Crosfield as its donation to the Fund.

150. *Rubber Exhibition 1914.*—What support will be forthcoming from this Association being still undertaken until replies are received from Directorate of different companies, the Honorary Secretary was instructed to advise Mr. J. A. Richardson of the position at date.

151. *Curtailment of Advances.*—Read resolution passed at the Bangalore Conference of the U. P. A. S. I.

152. *Bulletins.*—Resolved that the Honorary Secretary be instructed to forward Rs.30 to the Secretary U.P.A.S.I. as an advance for Bulletins and request that he be furnished with 50 copies of all issued, for circulation to all members of this Association and their assistants.

153. *Increase of Subscription to U. P. A. S. I.*—Resolved that this Association subscribe to the U. P. A. S. I. Funds at the same rate as other affiliated Associations, namely, 2 annas per acre cultivated, and that a special additional subscription at 6 pies per acre be collected now to meet the amount required for the half year 1st July to 31st December, 1913. But it strongly deprecates the further enhancement of subscription and considers the present rate is ample for efficient working of the U. P. A. S. I.

154. *Delegates' Expenses.*—The Honorary Secretary was instructed to pay Messrs. Hunt and Waddington Rs.100 each on account of their expenses in representing the Association at Bangalore.

155. *Visit of Board of Agriculture.*—A member having intimated his wish for further details, the Honorary Secretary was asked to advise the Secretary of the U. P. A. S. I.

156. *Tour of Scientific Officer.*—Members having asked that Mr. Austead should visit their estates during his coming tour, the Honorary Secretary was asked to inform him and arrange details of tour.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Honorary Secretary and members of the Malabar Club for granting the Association a room for the purpose of this meeting.

With a vote of thanks to the Chair, the Meeting terminated.

CAMPBELL HUNT,
Chairman.

H. WADDINGTON,
Honorary Secretary

South Mysore Planters' Association.

*Minutes of Special General Meeting held at Chickanhalli,
on September 26th, 1913.*

PRESENT.—Messrs. W. L. Crawford (President), C. J. Hayward, A. Thomson, D. Jackson, S. Sladden, J. G. Hamilton, H. F. Anderson, W. F. Scholfield, C. K. Pittcock, C. Lake, Sr. J. Hunt, P. Hunt, K. Tammiah, M. J. Woodbridge (Honorary Secretary). *Visitor:* C. A. King.

The Minutes of the last 2 Special General Meetings were confirmed, and the result of the referendum as to the introduction of an Act similar to Act I of 1903 into Mysore was announced. The result being 18 in favour of and 7 against.

Report of Delegates to U. P. A.—Mr. Crawford read the report of the delegates which was as follows:—

The matters chiefly interesting this Association were as follows:—

Arsikere-Mangalore Railway.—We understand everything points to the early sanction of this long advocated and essential line. We were informed that the Mysore Government and the District Board of South Canara were most anxious for its early construction, and that the Madras and also the Government of India approved of it, and all that remained was the formal sanction of the Railway Board.

European Defence Association.—This is a matter chiefly for the consideration of private members and for them to consider the advantages offered by joining.

School of Tropical Medicine.—This is also a matter that chiefly concerns the private member. Some Associations in Southern India are giving fairly large donations from Association Funds, but we are of opinion that as Tropical Diseases are so general, and widespread, we would prefer to see the Imperial and the Government of India doing more in the matter and not leaving it to private enterprise.

Labour.—As this is a matter that will come up later on in the Agenda we will say nothing about it at present, except that we were able to carry out our instructions almost to the letter, having been told to support any suggestions of a Commission to look after our interests and help to retain the labour we have.

Pest Act.—You will all, doubtless, have read Dr. Coleman's interesting lecture on this subject and it is not necessary for us to say more except that we had an interview with the Dewan of Mysore, who was sympathetic, and we believe interested in the matter, and who promised to give the subject his consideration.

Scientific Officer.—Your Delegates agreed to continue our subscription and so did all the other subscribing Associations. We also urged the necessity there was to re-appoint Mr. Anstead to this work for a further period as the value of his services was recognised. We also, as strongly as possible, supported the suggestion that the U. P. A. Scientific Staff should be strengthened by the addition of a Mycologist, and to our mind there is little doubt Government will help us in this matter if we are prepared to meet part of the expense and this does not seem unreasonable. It is, however, for the United Planters' Association to decide if they are in a position to do so

without calling upon District Associations for further funds. Personally we are of opinion a workable scheme acceptable to the Government of Madras could be drawn up.

Hybridisation.—The experimental plot we understand has been planted and the plants are coming on well.

Agricultural matters.—It is unnecessary to say anything on this subject, as what was done at the meeting has been fully reported. We note with satisfaction that the Imperial Board of Agriculture will visit the Madras Presidency this coming cold weather and the U. P. A. hope to have the pleasure of taking them to see one or more of the Planting Districts of Southern India, so that they may get a first-hand impression of the magnitude of the Planting Industry in South India. After a few questions had been asked and answered by the Delegates, the following resolution was proposed by Mr. Pittock and seconded by Mr. J. G. Hamilton and carried:—

"That the Scientific Department of the U. P. A. be asked to arrange for experiments with Dynamite in relation to soil breaking being carried out by the Assistant Scientific Officer in this District and that Messrs. Parry & Co. be asked to give the explosives for experiment free."

A vote of thanks to the Delegates was passed.

Instructions to Delegate to Dussera Representative Assembly.—After considerable discussion instructions were given on two subjects of importance to Mysore planters.

Proposed Labour Commission for Southern India.—This subject was introduced by the Chairman as follows:—For many years the best brains of the planting Community of Southern India have been endeavouring to devise some useful, practical and workable scheme to help us to surmount some of the worst of our labour troubles, and at last, not a day too soon, the United Planters' Association have through their Labour Committee recommended the adoption by the whole of the planters of Southern India, and have published a most interesting and valuable report clearly stating how such a Labour Commission can be established. A copy of the report has been sent to every member of this Association.

The proposed Labour Commission has almost everything in its favour, and practically, except the considerable cost, nothing against it. The question of its cost is of course a vital one, but if we are to have a Labour Commission of our own and derive the benefit we hope to from its successful working it will be cheap at Rupee 1 per acre, and it must never be forgotten that anything that is really good and worth having always costs money. To try and run a Labour Commission for Southern India "on the cheap" is to foredoom the whole scheme to failure. We must get the services of the very best men available for the work of organisation and inspection, and a thoroughly good subordinate staff, and you cannot hope to get either one or the other without paying well for it. I am of opinion if the cost can in any way be kept at not more than Re.1 per acre, and if all the Estates in Southern India join the scheme it can very easily be arranged so as not to exceed that figure, everyone will join or at any rate should do so, and so make the Labour Commission for Southern India an organisation of the greatest help and assistance to us.

I hear that there are established in South Canara, where the bulk of our labour comes from, representatives of almost every cooly importing country outside of India to say nothing of Ceylon and Southern India recruiters, and the Railway have conceded special cheap fares for parties of

coolies leaving Mangalore for other parts of India, many of them doubtless owing us or our maistries money. If we are to continue to get coolies or even keep those we have, something must be done and done quickly or we shall find it too late.

Mr. J. G. Hamilton then explained how the Commission would work, and what he thought they would undertake to do, laying special emphasis on the point that they would not recruit labour, but that Estates must send their own maistries who would receive help and be looked after by the Commission as far as possible. A long and animated discussion then took place during which several suggestions for the working of the Commission were made.

The following resolution was then carried unanimously:—

"That this Association is in agreement with the proposal to introduce a Labour Commission on the lines recommended in the Labour Committee's report and strongly recommend every planter in Mysore to join the scheme and send in a list of their subscribing acreage."

Mr. J. G. Hamilton was elected Delegate to attend the special general meeting of the U. P. A. and a Sub-Committee consisting of the President, Secretary, Mr. J. G. Hamilton, Mr. C. K. Pittock and Mr. C. J. Hayward were appointed to go into the suggestions made during the discussion. Members present at the meeting promised to place 2,419 acres on the Commission and to recommend proprietors at home to agree to join the Commission at an as early date as possible.

Address to Viceroy—Proposed by Mr. J. G. Hamilton and seconded by Mr. H. F. Anderson:—

"That the President and Honorary Secretary do represent the South Mysore Planters' Association in presenting our address to His Excellency the Viceroy."

Co-operation in purchase of manure.—Owing to no scheme having been formulated and such facts and figures as have been obtained not being available at the meeting, only a short discussion took place and the subject was postponed till the next meeting after the following resolution had been carried:—

Proposed by Mr. A. Thomson, and seconded by Mr. C. K. Pittock: "That Manure firms in India be approached to see what rebate they would be prepared to give on quantities of manures ordered (in bulk) through them by the Association."

Proposed by Mr. W. L. Crawford and seconded by Mr. A. Thomson: That Messrs. C. K. Pittock, M. J. Woodbridge and G. N. Frattini with power to add to their number be asked to draw up a scheme for the co-operative purchase of manures through the South Mysore Planters' Association."

Mysore Economic Conference.—Read Deputy Commissioner's letter No. 117/9D. E. C. with enclosed copy of proceedings of the Hassan District Committee, Economic Conference, and Mr. K. Thammiab's letter to the President of the Hassan District Committee.

Resolved that the manufacture of artificial manure in the State is possible. Government should, however, purchase quantities of artificial fertilisers and sell the same to Ryots and others at cost price and that the establishment of lime works in Mysore is very necessary and desirable.

Roads.—Mr. Crawford spoke on the subject of roads as follows :—

I would like to state that as far as Munjarabad is concerned I have noted with satisfaction that an attempt is at last being made to spend some money on the roads in an intelligent manner; but as the side drains and in many cases the road surface has been so persistently neglected and the annual allotment wasted, it will take time to put the roads into good order.

It is, however, gratifying to find as I have already said that some work is really being done at last; but I notice in spite of all representations in places no attempt has been made to clean our drains.

The Honorary Secretary was instructed to write to the Executive Engineer, Katur, calling his attention to the fact that metal is frequently spread on the roads and then left uncovered for a long time.

Election of Members of the Council of Mysore Planters' Association.—This gave rise to a long and somewhat heated debate on the subject of the constitution of the Council and how best to secure its efficiency and continuity of policy.

After a rather drastic proposal by Mr. C. K. Pittock had been withdrawn, Mr. Hamilton proposed and Mr. Jackson seconded: "That the present system of election to the Council of the Mysore Planters' Association does not ensure the best service and that it is advisable that members should take office for three years instead of one. Carried 6 to 2, several members not voting. Mr. J. G. Hamilton and Mr. C. Lake were elected members of the Council for the South Mysore Planters' Association.

Association Jubilee.—Resolved that Rule 5 be suspended so as to enable the Jubilee Annual Meeting to be held in Saklasapur.

The proceedings terminated with a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Hayward for his hospitality.

M. J. WOODBRIDGE,
Honorary Secretary.

Anamalai Planters' Association.

Proceedings of a General Meeting of the Anamalai Planters' Association, held at the Valparai Bungalow, at 10 a.m., on the 28th of September, 1913.

PRESENT.—Mr. Geo. L. Duncan (Chairman), and Messrs. deSalis, Walsh, Howland, Jeffrey, Cotton, Brierley, Fowke, Ireland-Jones, Emery, Robb, Sampson, Congreve and J. Hatton Robinson (Honorary Secretary). *By Proxy*: Mr. E. W. Simcock.

AGENDA.

1. To confirm Minutes of last General Meeting held at Valparai and of last Committee Meeting held at Monica.
2. U. P. A. S. I. Delegate's Address.
3. LABOUR—(a) Proposed U. P. A. S. I. Labour Commission.
(b) The Madras Planters' Act of 1903 being extended to this District.
4. Postal and Telegraph affairs.
5. Medical.

6. Public Bazaar for the District.

(1) The Minutes of the General Meeting held on 25-7-1913, and of the Committee Meeting held on 10-8-1913 were confirmed.

(2) U. P. A. S. I. DELEGATE'S REPORT.—Mr. Congreve read the following Report :—

Owing to other demands on their space Newspaper reports of the Conference were not as full as usual, a considerable amount that was of interest being omitted, and it is therefore important that the book of proceedings should be secured and carefully read.

The meeting opened on the morning of the 25th ultimo, the forenoon being taken up in Committee to arrange in what order the Agenda paper should be taken, etc., the afternoon was given up to the various reports and addresses which were fully reported and do not call for comment.

LABOUR.—It was at once recognised that labour was the all-important question; the unanimity on this subject was remarkable and a whole day was allotted for discussion.

The meeting first heard the report of the Sub-Committee appointed last year to go into the matter, and approved their suggestions. The question of the abolition of the professional recruiter gave rise to a long discussion as it was very difficult to define this unscrupulous gentleman, so as to protect the genuine Master from being harassed in his recruiting work by any action which Government may be induced to take to put a stop to prevent abuses.

The resolution finally adopted was as published, and it remains to be seen if Government will assist to this extent.

There seemed to be a strong feeling amongst all the Delegates that the time had come when some concerted action was absolutely necessary to protect our interests in the very keen and ever growing competition with other countries. It was felt that Government legislation was neither possible nor advisable, and that any scheme of registration would be too complicated to work satisfactorily.

It was agreed that a well-organised Labour Commission would be the best means of attaining our object, and accordingly a Sub-Committee of 7 Delegates (your Association being represented thereon) was appointed to go into the whole matter and draw up an estimate. A copy of this report has been circulated and, although it is not perhaps as full as might be desired, it must be remembered that time was limited; Delegates evidently realised this by the manner in which the draft scheme was received when read in open meeting.

Your Delegates were as you will remember, given very definite instructions to press for some united action with regard to Labour and to confirm the action of, and follow the course laid down by your Delegates last year. They were also instructed to back up any scheme tending towards combined action and they therefore informed the meeting that this Association was practically certain to support the Labour Commission, and it now remains for you to confirm this.

Support was guaranteed in several quarters. Mr. Mahon promising to bring in 10,000 acres. The Chairman and Mr. Hamilton agreed to support the scheme as far as the acreage under their control was concerned, and Mr. Richardson, although he already has his own recruiting establishment, also

promised support. Altogether we believe the Chairman said that support was practically assured from some 35,000 acres. With a start like this it looks as if these yearly recurring discussions were to bear fruit at last.

Mr. Scoble Nicholson, head of the Ceylon Labour Commission, was present during the meeting and most courteously informed us as to the cost of running this well-organised commission and replied to various questions as to detail in a manner which made one realise how possible it is to work in harmony with our more pushing brethren across the Straits.

He said he was sure the Ceylon planters would welcome a South Indian Labour Commission, and felt sure it would prove of inestimable benefit to all.

It was intimated that the Kanan Devans, who already have their own well-organised Commission, might join in the general scheme as soon as this was put on a satisfactory footing.

AGRICULTURE.—On the third day of the meeting several addresses were given on agricultural matters, all of which were most interesting and instructive. The question of manures was brought up and your Association's resolution with regard to excessive amount of sand in Fish manure was passed unanimously, and it is to be hoped this will have some effect and result in a more satisfactory sample of that fertiliser being supplied.

Mr. Anstead has some interesting analysis of Fish manure, copy of which is appended for your information.

THEFTS OF PRODUCTS.—Your Delegates gave notice that they wished cardamoms included in a resolution brought forward by the West Coast Associations in connection with thefts of Rubber, but subsequently withdrew this as it was pointed out that there was very good reason to believe that something might be done in this respect if Rubber were taken alone, whereas, if other products were tacked on, there was practically no chance of Government moving in the matter. Coorg also agreed to withdraw Tea and Pepper.

CEARA RUBBER.—Mr. Mahon gave some very useful information as to his experiences in Coorg and anyone interested in this variety of Rubber would do well to read his remarks in the book of Proceedings.

RETENTION OF SCIENTIFIC OFFICER.—A somewhat heated discussion took place in Committee as to whether Delegates were satisfied with what was being done. The Chairman asked several times for anyone who had a grievance to give expression to it there. One Delegate took up the challenge, stating that he did not consider results from this Department had been very definite so far. However, the feeling of the meeting was that Mr. Anstead had done all that was possible under the circumstances, and it was agreed that no better man than our present officer could be got, and Government is to be asked to retain his services on behalf of the Planting Industry for a further period of 5 years.

You of course know that your Association has never been very enthusiastic over the Scientific Department, but were prepared to continue to support this, provided the Labour Question took first place in the U.F.A.S.I. programme. We feel sure, however, that we are steadily, if slowly, gaining much valuable information through the work of this department, and, as time goes on, we are likely to find more marked and direct benefit therefrom.

CINCHONA.—Your Delegates brought forward a resolution deprecating the opening up of land by Government under this product in our district. This was supported by the Kanan Devans and Nilgris and carried.

PLANTERS' BENEVOLENT FUND.—Some discussion took place as to the advisability of permitting Eurasian gentlemen to join the Fund at the discretion of the Committee. It appears that one or two such were admitted, notwithstanding the original rule which reads "Proprietors and European Managers and Assistants." It would be almost impossible to return these gentlemen their subscriptions, and it was, therefore, agreed, to obviate this, that under certain circumstances and at the discretion of the Committee this might be allowed. This right we feel sure will be very carefully used, but it would probably be advisable to have the question gone into at the next meeting of the U. P. A. S. I. when Delegates would have definite instructions.

FINANCE AND SUBSCRIPTIONS.—As the meeting was agreed on the Labour Question your Delegates considered they were permitted to promise the continuation of the present subscription to the Parent Association on the 2 anna basis and gave notice accordingly.

The Mundakayam Association agreed to pay the enhanced subscription, so now there are only two Associations that do not subscribe at the two anna rate.

Mr. Robinson proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Messrs. Duncan and Congreve for their work and that their report be adopted and printed with the Proceedings of the Meeting—and that each of the Delegates be voted Rs.15 a day towards their expenses during the time they were away attending the U. P. A. S. I. Meeting. This was seconded by Mr. de Salis.

An amendment proposed by Mr. A. A. Robb and seconded by Mr. C. R. T. Congreve: "That the actual expenses incurred by the Delegates be paid them." This had not the support of the Meeting and Mr. Robinson's resolution was carried.

(3) (a) **PROPOSED U. P. A. S. I. LABOUR COMMISSION.**—It gave the Meeting great pleasure to know that united action about the Labour Question was at last likely to be taken up by the U. P. A. S. I. and the following resolution was unanimously passed:—

"That the Members of this Association unanimously agree as to the absolute necessity of a Labour Commission, on the lines drawn up at the late U. P. A. S. I. Meeting, and have strongly recommended the adoption of the same to the Managing Agents of the Companies interested."

10,000 acres were voted as ready to join the Commission subject to the sanction of the Directors at Home.

(b) **THE MADRAS PLANTERS' ACT OF 1903—BEING EXTENDED TO THE DISTRICT.**—Correspondence from the Hon'ble Mr. E. F. Barber was read.

The Honorary Secretary was requested to refer Government to proceedings of the Extraordinary General Meeting held at Puthotam on 1.1.1904—when the resolution then passed read:—

"That Government be asked to apply the Labour Act I of 1903 to this District tentatively."

(4) **POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH AFFAIRS.**—Read copy of correspondence from the Postmaster-General, Madras, to the Superintendent of Post Offices,

Nilgiri Division, and the Hon'ble Mr. E. F. Barber's letter of 8/9/13 to the Hony. Secretary, Anamalai Planters' Association.

As Government had asked the Association to build a Post Office, and had sent a copy of Plan "A" of a standard building estimated by the Executive Engineer, Coimbatore, to cost Rs.5,300, the Hony. Secretary was asked to write to Government and ask what yearly rent they would be prepared to pay, and also to ask for a detailed plan and specification.

The Association suggested a timber building with Iron roof.

Correspondence was read regarding the proposed Telegraph guarantee.

The Meeting, with one exception, was in favour of the Telegraph line being brought up into the District. It was noted that Messrs. James Finlay & Co., were prepared to pay their share of the guarantee.

(5) MEDICAL.—The Honorary Secretary was requested to write and say that the District had been left without a Medical man—and that one should be sent at once.

(6) PUBLIC BAZAAR FOR THE DISTRICT.—The District Forest Officer's letter No. 321 of 13 was read, The Hony. Secretary was requested to write urging that the matter should not be delayed if work was to be done this year.

On the table U. P. A. S. I. Circulars Nos. 13/13 and 13/14 and correspondence *re*. Cinchona.

With a vote of thanks to the Chairman the Proceedings concluded.

Geo. L. DUNCAN,

Chairman,

J. HATTON ROBINSON,

Hony. Secretary.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Srivilliputtur,

THE EDITOR,

The Planters' Chronicle.

Sir,—Owing to the exigencies of my life, I did not see your issue of the 27th September till to-day. I only write to say something about the remarks of Mr. Mead where my own name is mentioned. I think it was in 1910 or 1911 that Government point blank refused to do anything to help us in the way of securing fair competition or of protecting the interests of the emigrant cooly. At the U. P. A. S. I. Meeting of 1911, I publicly recanted and made a disavowal of my former position on this subject, but said "I still think that where coolies are unjustly treated in British colonies or in other countries the Government should step in and see that fair dealing is meted out to them and that promises made or implied are kept." (page 93 Book of Proceedings 1911). It is notorious that promises made or implied have not been kept, and Mr. Mead points out that further breaches of promise are being discussed in Malaya.

I notice Mr. Mead says that each district has more or less its own centres of recruiting, and wants me to bear him out in this statement. I can only do so if he consents to add the words "especially less." During the enquiries into this subject which I carried out for the U. P. A. S. I., the Secretaries of the various daughter Associations kindly supplied me with valuable information. It will be remembered that I issued to them skeleton maps, on which they marked with red the position of the planting

district concerned and with blue the position of those parts of the country from which their labour was drawn. The fact came out prominently that the recruiting areas not only overlapped but were often identical. It is true, however, that each district or group of districts (such as the Mysore and Coorg districts, Nilgiris and Wynnad, and the Travancore districts) have certain recruiting centres where they predominate, but nevertheless have to suffer the torturing pin-pricks of outsiders. As an instance, I ask you to look at any map of South India. Take only that part of the Peninsula South of the town of Madurai. The Tamil recruiting area is bounded by the Mountains (Western Ghats) on the West and the Sea on the East. The country east of the Railway is practically monopolised by Ceylon. In the small remaining area there are three organized Labour Departments, besides sporadic Agencies of individual groups of Estates. Two of these Departments have Europeans at their head, who content themselves by wishing each other in Jericho. One with an Indian Superintendent is more unscrupulous, and the sporadic Agencies are covertly piratical, quite against the wishes of the Estates they serve. They all suffer from competition with Ceylon and the Straits. Ceylon has every right on its side, for coolies from parts of this area have worked in Ceylon from ancient times. The Straits are new comers, and are there by *force majeure*. All the South India Agencies spend far more because they are divided, than if they were all under one control. I am adopting fictitious figures when I say, that between them they spend a lakh of rupees a year, whereas if all were combined the expenditure need not be more than Rs.75,000, a saving of 25%. A more efficient service would conceivably be secured, as there would be some chance of regulating advances and of introducing discipline among kanganyas, which at present is impossible. I dread, therefore, the adoption by each district of a plan for running its own small Commission as Mr. Mead suggests. Sir, I must have exhausted your patience, and at any rate I have exhausted the time at my disposal.

Yours faithfully,

AVIMER MARTIN.

THE EDITOR.

The Planters' Chronicle.

Sir,—I have read Mr. Mead's letter in your issue of 27th ultimo with interest, but I had no intention of answering it, or any point in it, and would not take up my pen now, had I not received a letter from a brother planter expressing views somewhat similar to Mr. Mead's on the question of District Commissions as against a Combined Commission.

There is no need to question any of Mr. Mead's facts and statements, for they are all overshadowed by one huge fallacy, which, in my opinion, invalidates the whole of his suggestions.

Can Mr. Mead give any instance where the efforts of individuals or of small bodies of individuals have prevailed against combined organisation?

Perhaps he can, I confess I cannot, and the instances to the contrary which I can find in the history of my own country, in *Aesop's Fables*, and in the Bible, are good enough for me.

If we can admit that our competitors have organizations, we must admit that it is only by combination, and the resulting organisation, that we can hope to bring ourselves to their level.

Yours faithfully,

E. F. BARBER.

Ootacamund, 4th October, 1913.

6th October, 1913.

THE EDITOR,

Planters' Chronicle,

Bangalore.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Mead's letter in your issue No. 39 appears to call for some comment and I venture to submit a few remarks on the various points he touches on.

Legislation.—While not offering an opinion either for or against legislation, I think if we substituted *combination* for it, it would be more to our advantage. We are all agreed that combination is most desirable yet apparently make no effort to effect it and still continue in the good or rather bad old way. Correspondence can do something towards effecting more unanimity of opinion but not much, and far more desirable results can be obtained by more frequent personal intercourse and interchange of ideas either direct (in which case the possibilities are restricted) or through an intermediary in the form of a Travelling Assistant Secretary, a subject which has already been ventilated in your pages.

Shortage of Labour.—To talk of shortage of labour in a peninsula populated by teeming millions the vast majority of whom obtain their livelihood in agricultural pursuits is an anomaly. The difficulties in *providing* labour for 200,000 acres is due, in the writer's opinion, to want of combination and system and ignorance of the country and its inhabitants on the part of the employers.

Labour Commission.—Your remarks that Mr. Mead's views are too provincial are quite true. District Commissions are certainly to prove more expensive, or in the alternative less effective than a central Commission embracing the whole area and the *Prima facie* objections to half-a-dozen bodies each working independently and more or less in the same area are many. Regarding the objections to the 14 benefits which the Labour Commission hope to confer on us I do not propose to deal with them in detail. A suggestion made in your paper that the Commission should be formed into a Limited Liability Company and estates charged for what they get in the shape of Labour meets them all.

The final suggestion which you characterise as a red herring drawn across the labour trail I am dealing with in a separate letter which is enclosed.

Yours faithfully,

"MUNDERI".

6th October, 1913.

THE EDITOR,

Planters' Chronicle,

Bangalore.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Mead's final suggestion in your issue of the 27th September is one which ought to commend itself to every planter, for it contains a principle essential to our successful progress. Mr. Mead does not go into details, and I foresee a difficulty which, however, can be overcome.

A Committee or any body to be effective must meet frequently and be fully attended, but if the members are to be drawn from all points of the compass neither the one nor the other will be attained and therefore some modification of the proposal in the shape of Sub-Committees for each District appears necessary.

Mr. Mead has, however, made the suggestion and it is now "up to him" to get it beyond the talking stage by circulating and sounding the planters in his District, and also approaching representative planters in other Districts to initiate proceedings in their Districts.

Yours faithfully,

"MUNDERI".

Re: The Proposed Labour Commission.

With reference to the Editor's remark that letters would carry more weight if signed instead of bearing only a non-de-plume or initials, I would like to point out (1) that a criticism should not depend on the position of its writer to carry weight and (2) that it is hardly diplomatic to disagree publicly with a movement which is popular with V. A's and Managers, and that doing so might place one in the position of Kipling's Boomerang Blitzen "who could write" and as a result found "promotion did not come to him" and his leave "strangely hard to win," if nothing worse happened.

Even if Government put us on the same footing with our competitors and we get all the labour we require, I think a Labour Commission (would not "Agency" be a better name for it) run as suggested by Mr. Barnard would be an excellent thing as we should have some one from whom we could make enquiries regarding the status of industries, the whereabouts of defaulters, etc. This agency or Commission would presumably employ respectable men who knew some particular district or part of it and who could be relied on (to some extent) to get the information required. This Labour Agency, Limited, would take good care not to start on too lavish a scale and to increase its staff as demands required. It is to be presumed that every District Association would have a say in the management and would take care that work given by Directors or large shareholders would not receive better or prompter attention than that sent by small shareholders.

It has been pointed out to me that Government is never likely to do anything which might curtail emigration because the smaller the population the less chance there is of famine, and if by any chance there was a famine that it is more easily dealt with; also that a non-increasing population means less work and the same pay to all officials whatever else happens. I believe many statistics were put before Government within the last 2 years showing shortage of labour for mills and many other industries with no result. If emigration was curtailed all industries would have sufficient labour and any surplus would have to cultivate and so reduce prices of food-stuffs, but it would mean more work for officials until Government had been made to realise that more were needed. I am informed that the shortage of food-stuffs is due to the cultivator having found that it pays better to grow cotton, indigo, etc., or work on estates.

N. I. K.

How to take Samples and send Specimens for Examination.*Soils.*

To obtain a fair average sample of the soil in a field for analysis, as nearly as possible equal quantities of soil are taken from not less than, four different parts of it. At the places chosen for taking samples the surface is lightly scraped, to remove leaves, mulch, &c., a vertical hole 18 inches square is then dug to a depth of 2 feet, like a port hole. With a sharp spade a slice of soil to a depth of one foot is cut off one side of the hole and placed on a clean bag. Big stones and big roots should be removed, but not small stones, the size of a pea, or fine roots.

The process is repeated at the other places selected, and all the samples are then thoroughly mixed, big lumps being broken up. After well mixing about 10 lbs is placed in a clean canvas bag, which is securely tied up. Such samples should be forwarded in a clean wooden box.

It is important that bags and boxes should be clean.

Care must be taken about the labels. Each sample should be labelled and a duplicate label put inside the bag. Full information should be sent about each sample, stating elevation, rainfall, depth of soil, nature of sub-soil, surrounding rocks and country, whether and is on a level or slope near a river, &c., and the history of the previous manurial treatment of the soil.

The same rules apply to taking samples of a sub-soil.

Plant Diseases.

These should be packed so that, if possible, they will arrive in the same condition in which they were collected, and they *must not be externally wet* when they are put up. In some cases the specimens may be dried between sheets of blotting paper under light pressure before they are packed.

Specimens which decay rapidly may be sent in a solution of Formalin, 1 part in 20 of water.

Insects.

If live insects are sent, some of their food plant, which should be *dry*, should be enclosed with them, and also a little crushed paper. Insects found in soil, wood, &c., should be sent in these materials.

Tin boxes should be used for packing, and holes should not be bored in them, or if they are, only one or two and these quite small.

Insects should usually be sent dead. They may be killed in a cyanide bottle, or enclosed under a tumbler with a small piece of blotting paper soaked in benzene. They should be *quite dry* when packed, and are best buried in dry sawdust with a little powdered naphthalene.

Small insects should be packed with finely shredded paper. *Cotton wool should never be used.*

Butterflies and moths should be enclosed in papers folded into triangular-shaped packets which are packed in a box with crushed paper to prevent shaking.

Scale insects should be packed *quite dry*, each specimen attached to its food plant simply wrapped in soft tissue paper.

General.

In all cases more than one specimen of each kind should be sent, if possible 4 or 5.

Every specimen should be clearly labelled so that there can be no possible mistake. The label should bear a number referring to a description in the covering letter.

Full particulars about all specimens sent must be recorded.

All specimens should be sent to

THE SECRETARY,

The United Planters' Association of Southern India,

BANGALORE,

to ensure their being promptly attended to, upon arrival.